

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

January 3, 2021 • EPIPHANY OF THE LORD • Volume 70:7

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan

'Our eyes are drawn to the Creche'

Merry Christmas! A special Merry Christmas as we begin this year dedicated to St. Joseph here in our Cathedral of St. Joseph. Welcome one and all – and a special welcome to those who join us by way of livestream and the broadcast on NBC Channel 4. I am so glad that we can be together in some fashion, even if not all inside our cathedral.

Our eyes are drawn to the Crèche, to the image of Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus. Do you sense a sigh of relief after an arduous journey and the anxiety of not knowing where they would stay at the time when Mary would give birth?

Do you see them looking peacefully, lovingly, tenderly at him who would be the Bread of Life lying in a manger?

Surely, their gaze is not one of relaxation and contentment that was peaceful and calm. The reality is far different. The events described in the Gospel are pure chaos. Nor is this what they had desired or planned. But, then again, when was it ever?

From the moment the angel appeared separately to Mary and Joseph, no plan or desire would be safe.

No, theirs was a peace born of a keen awareness that they were in the presence of God. In a mysterious way, with unshakable confidence that God is faithful, they found themselves as actors in His Divine plan and looking upon God in the flesh – in their infant child.

“Him whom countless kings and prophets desired to see,” we read in the proclamation declaring Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, “Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed.”

Back at Easter, I told you how my friend, Archbishop (Nelson) Perez (of Philadelphia) would speak at Christmas about how the Christmas story is the same every year. It never changes:

- The Angel Gabriel announces the news to Mary.
- Joseph is told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife.
- There is the mad scramble in Bethlehem, the angels heralding the good news to the shepherds, the Magi from the east.

You know it well. It is always the same. But what does change? You and I do. We hear the story from different places, and with different mindsets from

the context of our experience at the moment.

Let me finish the story. The archbishop shared that message with me from a hospital bed in an ICU unit on Christmas Eve, his first Christmas on Long Island, the year we were ordained bishops together. His was one of the first cars hit in a 39-car pileup on the Long Island Expressway just a couple of days before. You see, he expected that he would look at the Christmas story with fresh eyes as a new bishop in a new place – that is not what he was expecting.

Msgr. David Soroan, one of our own priests, died early this morning. After he learned that he was entering his last days after a good, long struggle to get better, he told me, “This is not what I planned, and never did I imagine it would be like this, but it is not my plan, it’s God’s. And God loves us so much that he wants us back.” Imagine that, God loves us so much that he wants us back. On second thought, don’t imagine that; it is the truth.

We just heard the proclamation of the Prologue of the Gospel of John. St. John tells us the what -- the truth of Christmas. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”

You need to read further in the Gospel, in the third chapter to hear the WHY of Christmas. Jesus tells the High Priest Nicodemus:

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”

There you have it: God so loves the world. God so loves us.

Let’s be honest, as glad as I am to be able to share this Christmas message in a wider way through television, the fact that we need to take all of this distancing stinks. All the isolation, families separated, plans dashed, it is awful.

Some of you are watching this from hospital beds yourselves at various levels of condition and care. Know that we are united in the heart of God through prayer. And, let’s not forget the nurses and all the healthcare professionals on the front lines of hope especially in these days.

Here in the Columbus area, our community is deeply wounded by the news of the death of an Af-



Msgr. David V. Soroan passed away on December 25

Funeral Mass for Msgr. David V. Soroan, 86, who died on Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, while in palliative care at Mount Carmel East Hospital, was celebrated Thursday, Dec. 31 at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.



He was born on the Solemnity of the Assumption, Aug. 15, 1934, to R. Verne and Leona (Hickman) Soroan.

He graduated in 1952 from New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy and received a philosophy degree in 1956 from Columbus St. Charles Seminary, a theology degree in 1960 from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in school administration in 1969 from Columbia University. He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 20, 1959 by Bishop Martin J. O’Connor at the North American College in Rome.

During more than 60 years of dedicated service as a priest, he served as an associate pastor or in residence at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church and Columbus St. Peter, Holy Name and Our Lady of Peace churches and pastor of St. Peter and St. Catharine of Siena churches. After his retirement, he remained active at St. Catharine and assisted at several parishes before moving to assisted living at the Villas of St. Therese in Columbus.

He also was assistant superintendent and later superintendent of diocesan schools and diocesan vicar for education; a teacher and assistant principal at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and principal at Marion Catholic High School; and a judge of the diocesan Tribunal.

Foreseeing the need for Spanish-speaking priests, he enrolled in a sabbatical program at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio to learn Spanish, later utilizing his Spanish in pastoral ministry at Columbus Christ the King Church and elsewhere in the diocese. He served as a chaplain for the Columbus police and fire divisions and was a member of many diocesan and civic boards and committees.

In recognition of his service to the Catholic Church, Pope St. John Paul II bestowed on him the rank of monsignor, with the title prelate of honor, in 1992.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers Daniel, Patrick and Lawrence. Survivors include his sisters, Marysu Soroan and Diane Saunders, and many nieces and nephews.

See BISHOP, Page 15



Front Page photo:
YEAR IN REVIEW 2020
Greeters welcomed back Mass-goers in late May at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church after the pandemic forced the suspension of public worship for more than two months. *CT file photo*

Catholic TIMES

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

Teen's story launches series on missionary discipleship

By Father Adam Streitenberger
Diocesan Coordinator for Evangelization

“What does it mean to be Catholic?” Non-Catholics frequently ask this question. Even as a priest, I wrestle with the answer. The struggle is to keep the answer to the fewest words. However, the importance of the answer lies not in satisfying non-Catholics but rather that each Catholic knows his or her identity.

Fortunately, Pope Francis gives the Church a clear and succinct answer to the question, “What does it mean to be Catholic?” Paragraph 120 of his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*) is perhaps the most important, yet most underreported, quote of Pope Francis. In that paragraph, he gives the answer to what it means to be Catholic: “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples.” To be Catholic is to be a missionary disciple.

First, Catholics are disciples of Jesus Christ or people who have “encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus.” (EG 120) Pope Francis is not the first to refer to Catholics as disciples. Pretty much everyone, from the Gospels to Pope Benedict XVI, have.

Summarizing the message of Vatican II, St. John

Paul II frequently spoke of a universal call to holiness or that all the baptized are called to be saints. In *Redemptoris Missio* (*The Mission of the Redeemer*), John Paul connects that call to discipleship. “Conversion means accepting, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming his disciple.” (RM 46) To be a saint is first to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Being Catholic means that Jesus Christ has entered our lives and changed everything, which leads to a new way of living.

Pope Francis emphasizes the second aspect of being Catholic, being missionaries. In the same paragraph from *The Joy of the Gospel*, the pope references the Great Commission from the Gospel of Matthew (28:18-20) as the source for our identity. Christ commands His disciples to go and witness to Him. The pope writes, “All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization.”

Christ's presence brings joy and fulfillment to His disciples, which automatically leads to telling others about Him and what He has done. All of the baptized automatically receive a call to evangelize because His presence moves us to witness. The universal call to holiness is inseparable from the universal call to evangelize. Catholics are not just disciples but missionary disciples.

Because being a missionary disciple is the essence of being Catholic, look for the theme to reoccur frequently in *The Catholic Times*. At the center of Bishop Robert Brennan's vision for the Diocese of Columbus and the renewal of our Catholic presence is the call for all the baptized to be missionary disciples. The first step in building a culture of missionary discipleship is to know what it looks like. Pope Francis points to the example of some of the first: the Samaritan woman (John 4:39) and St. Paul (Acts 9:20; 22:6-11).

During the next several months, *The Catholic Times* will share stories of contemporary missionary disciples in our local church, including the witness of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School senior Matthew Heidenreich that is featured in this issue. We hope that it helps to build a culture of missionary discipleship in our parishes, schools and families.

Watterson student lives, spreads faith through actions

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Opportunities to see the presence of Jesus and spread his love can be found anywhere, says Columbus Bishop Watterson High School junior Matthew Heidenreich. You just have to know where to look.

“I'm always trying to find Christ in the people I encounter” inside and outside school, Matthew said. “It's easy to do with friends, but even when I'm walking by people in the hallways, I'm trying to see a part of God in them. You have to search for it, but it's there.”

Sometimes that presence can be found in unexpected places. “Some people have a habit of surprising me,” Matthew said. “Take the guys in the weight room (at Watterson). Guys go there mainly to get stronger, but there have been times when we've stopped to pray during or at the end of a workout.”

Matthew, an offensive and defensive lineman for Watterson's football team, said that because it's a Catholic institution, at his school football and faith go together. “Football prepares you well for life,” he said. “You learn lessons about accountability, relating to your brothers and persevering in trials. The team has a communion service every Thursday, and we pray for the inter-



Bishop Watterson High School junior Matthew Heidenreich sits for an interview on his missionary discipleship activity with fellow students. Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

cession of Mary before and after every game.”

Matthew is one of 20 to 25 students who are part of Watterson's Prayer Club, which meets briefly every day before classes start. “There's usually about 10 to 12 there on any given day – different students each time, and I'm one of the regulars,” he said. “Prayer is the right way for me to start my day. Some people here call me ‘that Prayer

Club kid,’ and that's fine because I'm not ashamed to show my faith.

“One way I give daily witness to Jesus is that whenever I walk by the school chapel, I make the sign of the cross. It's a simple way of witnessing, but it's a cool way to acknowledge Christ's presence. People see this, and they'll ask me random questions about the faith or about why I do this. I try to see where they're at and answer

them” or advise them to contact the school chaplain or someone with deeper knowledge of Church teaching.

Matthew is involved in many school social and service activities and said one of the most meaningful ways he has found to serve others is through Stockhands Horses for Healing, a Delaware County organization that provides therapy to people with mental, developmental, physical and emotional disabilities by giving them a chance to ride and care for horses.

“I go there every Wednesday, and I work mostly with nonverbal children,” he said. “They may not be able to say anything, but from the way they act, they know you're there and appreciate what you're doing. I've had some powerful moments with them. The feeling you get goes beyond words. I may be teaching them to ride, but they have taught me a lot.”

Matthew also is a member of the school's Student Council and student ambassadors program. In his freshman and sophomore years, he was part of the teen advisory board of the Whetstone branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the school's ski club and track team, throwing the shot put and the discus.

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What a revelation!

On the publication date for this edition of *The Catholic Times*, we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, that revelation of Christ, the long-awaited Savior King, to the three Magi, all from outside the Jewish world. It was an encounter of strangers, both from the religious perspective and from the geo-political perspective of those times. And out of that encounter Christ was honored and the Magi were changed.

We know that the Christmas season is about loving encounters. We see it in the special concern that people show to each other this time of year. We see it in how people talk with each other and exchange Christmas cards, Christmas letters, kind notes and thoughtful gifts (imitating the Magi). We see it in the generosity people show to those in need, from the Salvation Army kettle, to toy and food drives, to targeted and substantial gifts to causes and organizations that help the most vulnerable. As we listen to the Christmas readings and the many stories that share the Christmas message, we are awe struck by God's incredible love for us, by taking on our nature, and coming to us as a tiny vulnerable infant, who would grow to show us how to live and offer His life for our sake. We remember His in-

FAITH IN ACTION

Mark Huddy

Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.



struction to us, "Love one another as I have loved you."

So this Epiphany, how do we look for the revelation of Christ in our midst? What actions can we take so that Christ will be honored and we can be changed? Is there something in the encounters and dialogues that we have with strangers that will allow Christ to be revealed, and that will allow the evangelizing message of the Gospel to exercise its power over the needs and the troubles of the day?

January offers us some special opportunities. In 2020, we celebrated National Migration Week in January. It has been moved to September for this year, but this January we can still be open to encounters and dialogues with people and cultures that are different from our own. Opportunities exist for helping to organize a food drive or teach English as a

Second Language classes virtually for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center. Email Alma Santos at asantos@colscss.org. January is also the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Consider attending an ecumenical prayer service and opening a dialogue with members of another Christian faith. January 15 is the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. As we as wrestle with racism and all of its bitter fruits, consider hosting or attending one of the parish discussions on racism. Email Pam Harris, Director of Catholic Ethnic Ministries, at parris@columbuscatholic.org. January 22 is the anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Participate in the diocesan Mass (it will be streamed from the Cathedral) on January 22 at 10:30 a.m. You can also serve as a coordinator for your parish's Walking With Moms program of providing support

for pregnant women, before and after birth. Contact your pastor and then email Erin Cordle at ecordle@columbuscatholic.org. Lastly, the week between Dr. King's birthday and the anniversary of Roe v. Wade has been celebrated as a Stand Against Violence. Consider joining local efforts in your community to stem the tide of gun violence.

In our willingness to encounter and dialogue with the stranger, we can honor Christ and be changed. In 1948, Alfred Burt penned a Christmas carol in his Christmas card to his friends. The lyrics went like this: I met a stranger yest-er-en. I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place, and in the name of the Triune, He blessed myself and my house. My cattle and my loved ones. And the lark sang in His song: Often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Local news and events

Respect Life events will take place Jan. 22

The annual diocesan Respect Life Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22, the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The Catholic Church across the United States marks this day as a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. The Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan YouTube channel.

After Mass, Greater Columbus Right to Life will conduct its annual Roe remembrance program at noon at the Ohio Statehouse. Space limitations may exist, but the event will be livestreamed.

For more about the Mass, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at [\[colscss.org\]\(http://colscss.org\) or \(614\) 241-2540. Additional information about the Roe event is available at \[www.gcrtl.org/roe\]\(http://www.gcrtl.org/roe\).](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscath-</p>
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Bereavement ministry announces winter dates

Anyone suffering from the loss of a loved one and looking for friends to share in the grief and healing process is invited to join the next program of the Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry sponsored by the North High Deanery.

Its six sessions will take place via Zoom from 2 to 4 p.m. on six consecutive Sundays, beginning Jan. 24 and continuing through Feb. 28.

Anyone interested in attending must register to guarantee the security of all who participate in the Zoom group. For registration, call Karen Droll at (614) 582-8848 or email her at ksdroll@gmail.com.

Seminarians installed as lectors, acolytes



Nine seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus were among 14 students of the Pontifical College Josephinum's school of theology installed as lectors or acolytes during a Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Pictured are (from left): first row, Father Steven Beseau, Josephinum rector/president; Bishop Robert Brennan, the college's vice chancellor; and Tyler Carter (acolyte); second row, Michael Haemmerle (acolyte); Daniel Colby (acolyte) and Jake Asuncion (lector); third row, Joseph Rowling, (lector); David Johnstone (acolyte); John Haemmerle (lector); David England (lector) and Kevin Girardi (lector). A lector is appointed to read the Word of God (except for the Gospel) during the liturgy; recite the psalm in the absence of a psalmist; present the general intercessions if no deacon is present; instruct the faithful for the worthy reception of the sacraments; and prepare other faithful who are appointed on a temporary basis to read the Scriptures in liturgical celebrations. An acolyte is appointed to aid the deacon and minister to the priest during liturgical celebrations; serve at the altar and assist the deacon and priest in the celebration of Mass; distribute Communion with the deacons and/or priests if needed; expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration by the faithful and repose it afterward, in the absence of deacons and/or priests; and instruct other faithful who on a temporary basis are appointed to assist in liturgies by carrying the missal, cross, candles and other liturgical items.

Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum

Thoughts on a pro-life picket line

One of Dr. LeRoy Carhart's "Clinics for Abortion & Reproductive Excellence" – named to yield the Orwellian acronym CARE – is located about a mile from my parish in Bethesda, Maryland. Earlier this year, 40 Days for Life prayed daily outside Carhart's abortuary, which specializes in late-term "terminations." Parishioners from a number of local churches participated in the 40 Days program, hoping to save some innocent lives and to help women in crisis pregnancies find genuine care.

Forty Days' presence at the Carhart facility evidently did not sit well with some of the students at a nearby county-run high school. So a "pro-choice drive-by" of Carhart's clinic was organized in mid-December: perhaps 15 cars, festooned with posters, circled the parking lot of the office complex in which Carhart conducts his abattoir. Participants in the drive-by may have been surprised that 40 Days for Life, on learning of the plans for this vehicular demonstration, invited pro-life people to conduct a rosary vigil on a sidewalk outside the parking lot so that the "drive-by" couldn't avoid people with a different point of view – people who were also marking the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, depicted as pregnant on St. Juan Diego's miraculous tilma.

My wife and I participated in the rosary vigil, along with friends from our parish, other Catholics, and a stalwart if small contingent of Democrats for Life whose presence may have shocked the Carhart supporters. It was an instructive hour, giving me the opportunity to ponder the placards and posters displayed by the drive-by people, their slogans, and the chants of a man and a woman holding up a large banner – "Reproductive Rights = Human Rights" –

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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amid our rosary-praying group.

To begin with the last: it was striking that, while the 20 or so people in our group were relaxed and as cheerful as the circumstances permitted, the two banner holders were all angry, all the time. Both indulged in Che Guevara-style clenched fist salutes. Both kept hollering the inane slogan, "Keep your Bible off my body," although it was not clear how that injunction applied to the male half of the team. (He later switched to "Keep your Bible off my Constitution," a chant suggesting a sad ignorance of the reason-based natural law arguments against abortion.)

Then there was the content of that banner. Whatever else might be said about angry pro-abortion people (whose aggravations seem not to have been soothed by the prospect of the most radically pro-abortion administration in history), they don't seem to have any sense of irony – or of Newspeak. For how can they claim to be defending "reproductive rights" when their entire enterprise is aimed at stopping reproduction, lethally?

As for the student-participants in the drive-by, their behavior did not reassure me that my tax dollars were being well-spent on their education, and in a county that prides itself on the alleged excel-

lence of its state schools. More than a few of them flipped the finger at us (and thus at the icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe that one of our number carried). Others made a point of taking cellphone videos, perhaps imagining that their new friends in federal power would ship us off to Guantanamo come January 21. One car featured a crude, homemade poster declaring "Never Going Back!" and illustrated by the hoariest of "pro-choice" symbols: a coat hanger crossed out within a circle. Their high school, I surmised, did not acquaint its students with some relevant American history, i.e., Bernard Nathanson's testimony that, in his days as a pre-Roe v. Wade pro-abortion activist, he and others exaggerated the number of "coat hanger" abortions by many orders of magnitude.

There was no opportunity to engage the drive-by folks. One would have liked to ask the students if they were taught in sophomore biology that the product of human conception is a human being with a unique genetic identity. Or whether they had ever discussed in class that first principle of justice, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, which tells us that innocent human life deserves legal protection in a just society. Or if they knew exactly what Dr. Carhart did in a late third-term abortion.

Reason rarely persuades angry people, alas. In the tough years ahead for the culture of life, compassionate witness is going to be ever more important: especially the witness of caring for women in crisis pregnancies, too often abandoned by the men who created their crises. No woman in America has to have an abortion; humane, life-affirming alternatives are available. Pro-life people must make those alternatives more visible in 2021.

We always have a vaccine

Happy New Year! I am sure we have all had enough of the drama and challenges of 2020. Good riddance to the coronavirus, unemployment, illness, death, people having to fight over the respect for and value of life, and especially any and all politics of any kind. We all hope and pray that 2021 will be a year of healing, recovery, and love in so many ways across the board and throughout the world. It will certainly start out as the year of the vaccine. It will prove to be a life-saving solution to a global pandemic. It is also another testament to the wonderfully incredible ability of human beings to use their God-given talent and knowledge for the good of all. And "all" includes each and every race, religion, nationality, and political persuasion on earth. The coronavirus does not care who we are. Thankfully, the vaccine is equally unbiased, while caring so much more, by way of our front line workers and volunteers, and our medical and scientific miracle workers. A heartfelt Thank You to all of them.

Our calendar new year of 2021 is welcomed this year more than most. We all long for freshness and a positive outlook. The coronavirus vaccine will help a lot. But it is a physical, medical, and public health necessity. We cannot live normal lives

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



without it. The changes and challenges we had to endure over the past nine months or so were a true sacrifice. How well have we handled it? I know that I and my family did a pretty good job. For myself, I also failed miserably in some ways. The failures and the shortcomings were a little different in near isolation. We can take comfort in knowing that we always had a vaccine. That "vaccine" is the love, mercy, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. It is a vaccine that is free, always available, can be received as often as we need or want, and comes in a variety of doses. We do not need CVS or Walgreens. We only need our desire, our parishes, and our clergy. We have always had the nourishing and healing sacraments of the Catholic Church. I do not mean to compare these sacraments to a medical vaccine on an equal level. As a vaccine heals our bodies, the sacraments heal our souls. And we have always had these vaccines at our disposal.

This Sunday is the celebration of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is also the celebra-

tion of Christmas for our brothers and sisters in the Eastern Orthodox Church. The significance of the Epiphany is the revelation and manifestation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God in the Incarnation to all people – Jews and Gentiles alike. Just as a healing vaccine is manifested for all people, so is God's saving grace and embodiment of pure love in the Christ Child. The three wise men, the Magi, the astrologers, the three kings, or however we want to identify them, symbolize the connection between Heaven and earth, God to His children. Each and every one of us, created in the image and likeness of God, has the opportunity to freely receive the grace and mercy and forgiveness of God. The Incarnation, the Nativity, the Epiphany, and eventually the Resurrection of our Lord seal the deal. Think of these as a series of vaccines, each one acting as a "booster" for the previous ones. They are always here. They are always available. We recall and remember them annually. Aside from these yearly celebrations, we are permanently protected and even energized. Think of these "vaccines" each time the priest or deacon ends Mass with "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord with your lives." We are sent. May we do exactly that with newness of grace in 2021.

In 2021, we can help to heal our troubled world

As Catholics and Christians celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord at the beginning of a new year, the world desperately seeks signs of hope after a tumultuous 2020.

Will a great epiphany occur in 2021 that leads the world out of darkness and despair? Will a miraculous enlightenment suddenly happen to rationalize the suffering caused by the coronavirus pandemic, economic difficulties and civil unrest?

The only way to make sense of it all, however, is through faith in Christ.

We ponder at the Epiphany the determination of the Magi who traveled a great distance to bring gifts to the newborn king. Most of us don't have gold, frankincense and myrrh to offer the Savior, but we do have the gifts of faith and reason to help us understand how to do our part to heal the world.

The world definitely needs healing – a healing that only God can provide.

Here's a wish list for 2021:

- A swift end to the COVID-19 pandemic and return to some semblance of normalcy.
- A healing of hearts; unity in our Church and society as a whole; increased participation in Mass; and peaceful, prayerful solutions to injustices.

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



- More devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- In the year of St. Joseph, fathers in particular finding in the foster father of Jesus a true model of manliness and holiness.
- Family commitment to a deeper prayer life, remembering the words of Father Patrick Peyton: "The family that prays together stays together."
- Respect for all human life from the moment of conception to natural death.
- Relief for families and individuals struggling through economic hardship caused by the pandemic and personal trauma from the loss of loved ones.
- Leadership clarity from Church and government officials as the world deals with moral and societal ills.

Let's be honest: Confusion will abound this year, not only in how the world deals with the virus and social injustice but also with bedrock issues such as abortion, marriage, inequality and religious freedom.

The Church needs to be perfectly clear in its teachings in these areas. Support for abortion is unacceptable, and any professed Catholic serving in public office who backs the killing of unborn children should be sanctioned.

Regarding marriage, the Church cannot cave in to public pressure and create confusion by tacitly endorsing civil unions.

Equality starts with respect for life at its earliest stages. When we kill children in the womb, how can we expect adults to respect one another and not commit violent acts when such a disregard for life is permitted?

Threats to religious freedom will continue. Religious organizations will face pressure to violate the tenets of their faith to comply with government mandates regarding health care. Big Tech censorship likely will worsen. And religious persecution could ramp up, particularly in countries such as China, where the government forces the faithful to worship at its feet.

So how do we approach the new year? With faith, hope and charity. If we practice these virtues, we'll do our part in a small but meaningful way.

Path trod by the simple sheep leads to peace

Have you ever found yourself up late facing some formidable, yet familiar, interior foes?

Quite often I find myself there, and I raise my white flag to the Lord and walk quietly to my place of prayer, for I know whose I am, and I know He will fight for me if I but be still (Exodus 14:14). This time is hallowed ground, and I submit to a night of prayer and vigil.

It is challenging to be a simple sheep, and yet, is that not what our hearts truly were created for – to know, love and serve the Lord? I feel the most lost when I step away from this simplicity. My heart longs for it. Just thinking on it gives me peaceful pause.

I envision a lifetime spent thinking how to love the Lord, know him more intimately and serve him simply and humbly. This imagery has the setting of a mountain cabin or a lakeside cottage, perhaps walking beside the ocean and reflecting on the Lord's majesty. These moments are necessary; they are also mountaintop moments that require us to go down and bear witness to what we profess.

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27).

The Gospel of Christ is challenging. It is not an easy read to tackle or an easy endeavor to shoulder. One might think it doable only for the errant or the intellectual. However, the beauty of our faith tradition has countless examples of those who bear witness to the Gospel of Christ in their everyday lives.

St. Therese of Lisieux was an unknown sister in a convent until her inner thoughts, prayers and writings were published after her death. Her "little way" of living shone brightly as extremely worthy of the Gospel of Christ. We look to her simplicity and her quietness as an example of someone whose every thought and action became a living Gospel moment.

It is easy to think that, with recognition or ac-

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



ceptance or something tangible acquired through purchase or merit, that our level of sanctity and happiness could be elevated. In Luke 12:48, we are reminded that, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." If I am striving to be content to be a simple sheep, to be still and know that He is God, as well as living a manner of life worthy of the Gospel of Christ, then the necessity of simplicity is paramount.

The question remains: Where can we find simplicity in the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives? In a home where quiet is achieved only in the midnight hours, where, how and when am I to slow down and ponder these deeper questions of faith? Do I know the Lord? This is the beginning question for us all. Do we know the Lord, and does the Lord know us? Clearly, he knows us as he formed us, but will he say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23), or will he say, "I do not know you" (Matthew 7:23)?

I think a Gospel-worthy life requires three things: tenacity, courage and vulnerability. Again, the saints, both early and modern, lead the way bearing witness through these characteristics. For who can name a saint who wasn't tenacious in loving Christ or courageous in facing adversity or transparent in allowing others to see their struggles and yet persevere through them with the goal of building the kingdom of Christ, one stone at a time?

As a wife of almost 25 years, a mother of 18 years and a daughter of 44 years, I have a deep desire to bear witness to the Lord through these roles. When the darkness creeps in, as it does for many, and we feel unnoticed, unappreciated, unaccepted and unworthy, let us remember that our Shepherd leaves the 99 for the sheep who feels lost. He calls us back to the simplicity of knowing Him, loving Him and serving Him through our individual journey on our way to heaven.

For me, that is my marriage, my primary vocation. Upon a whiteboard in my kitchen, which is the epicenter of our home, is written, "Your marriage is the Gospel you preach to your children every day." When I am striving for bigger, better, bolder, or thinking that I lack courage or tenacity, I am reminded of what it takes to live out my vocation in a manner worthy of the Gospel, and I am immediately rooted in certitude of who I am, and I am at peace. I see both my past and my present and stand firm. There is no need for comparison or concern.

Keeping my eyes on Christ, finding Him and welcoming Him into the everyday messiness of family life is worthy of the Gospel message. This humility is filled with simplicity and trust, crucial to abandoning our own desires and keeping our eyes focused on our Shepherd. Having nights where we allow ourselves to be vulnerable with the Lord and steep ourselves in His word, His love and His mercy is worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

As we hold vigil with the Lord, deep in our hearts, whether it be at night, in our car or on that blessed retreat, let us cast aside anything that draws us away from a wholehearted passion for our vocation, for in that space, we will find protection for our hearts, peace for our souls and unquenchable joy for the life we have been given.

Virus pauses sister's ministry to Columbus 'street family'

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Sister Nadine Buchanan, OP, can't wait until she can hug people once more.

For the past 11 years, Sister Nadine has ministered in the Franklinton and Hilltop areas of Columbus' west side to the homeless and to people exploited by human traffickers, bringing them bags filled with two days' worth of sandwiches, sweets, water and juice.

She has been making the 10-mile drive to the west side from the motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace on the city's east side three or four times a week and has distributed tens of thousands of the bags during the years. In 2019 alone, she estimates that she handed out 2,500 bags, containing items she purchased or were donated. The sisters pay for her car and gas.

But because of the coronavirus pandemic, she hasn't visited members of what she calls her "street family" since March. She has kept in touch with some of them through the agencies that serve them, but it's not the same as looking them in the eyes and telling them God loves and cares for them.

"I talk with Ben Sears of the Mount Carmel Medicine Street outreach program and with the staff of Sanctuary Night and they tell me people are asking all the time, 'Where's Sister?'" she said. "I love being on the streets, giving and receiving hugs and listening to what people need to talk about. I long so much to be able to do that again once enough people are vaccinated against the virus that I can resume my ministry.

"There are so many good people on the streets who have been so traumatized because of drug use or human trafficking. I've gotten to know wonderful men and wonderful women who have been trapped by the circumstances of their lives and tell me, 'I didn't know I was good enough.'

"What they need most is to talk to people and be able to trust them. They don't need preached to. They need love, compassion, care and non-judgment. I tell them, 'I love you because I love you. You're made in the image of God.' Some haven't heard anyone tell them that for a long time, and it brings reassurance," Sister Nadine said.

Although she can't currently visit the people she serves, she is putting together holiday bags to be distributed with the help of the Mount Carmel street outreach, Integrated Services and Sanctuary on Sullivant Avenue. The bags will include candy, peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, socks, lip

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Answering God's Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister in the Diocese of Columbus.

balm and McDonald's gift certificates.

Sister Nadine's street ministry began in 2009 while she was recovering from surgery. "During my recovery, I read a story online about people trying to help trafficking survivors and said, 'I have to get involved with that,'" she said.

After receiving training in anti-human-trafficking programs from the Salvation Army in Columbus, she began working with Freedom a la Cart, a catering and meals-at-home company that trains human trafficking survivors for jobs in the food service industry, and with the Franklin County CATCH (Changing Actions to Change Habits) Court, a specialized court founded by retired Franklin County Municipal Judge Paul Herbert in 2009. Its purpose is to help trafficking survivors recover through trauma-based counseling and drug and alcohol treatment. She continues to volunteer with Freedom a la Cart and is a member of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless.

Sister Nadine and Freedom a la Cart staff member April Thacker, who died in May, got the Hyatt Regency Columbus hotel to donate sandwiches for holiday meals, which they delivered in 2009 to people on the west-side streets. That spurred Sister Nadine to more action. "I realized those people are hungry every day," she said. "So I began going out on my own to help them and just kept doing it.

"Even as a child, I always wanted to do something for God," she said. "I was always attracted to helping the poor and those in need, especially people who had to beg for the necessities of life."

Sister Nadine, 70, the youngest of four children, two of them deceased, spent the early years of her life on a small farm in Muskingum County before her family moved to Zanesville in 1955. "We moved because there was still anti-Catholic prejudice at that time," she said. "The Ku Klux Klan wouldn't let us ride a school bus. We moved to town so we could walk or take a city bus to school."

She attended Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas School and Rosecrans High School, from which she graduated in 1968. When she was in fifth grade, her father, an Armco Steel employee for 40 years, suffered a massive heart attack and stroke and couldn't go back to his job, so she began working as a baby

sitter, serving as many as 15 families, and doing housekeeping chores.

At age 18, she worked for a year at the former Essex Wire Co. plant in Zanesville, making backup lights for Ford vehicles. "I was part of an all-woman crew with male supervisors," she said. "These were the working poor. They had to work because they had kids to support. Every day, I carried a crucifix in my pocket to help give me courage.

"When I left the plant, all the women on that crew gave me cards and presents. One of them told me, 'It's rare when someone comes in to this job and walks out better than when she came in.' I'll never forget that," she said.

She then attended Muskingum Area Technical College for two years, earning an associate degree in early childhood education. She had wanted since childhood to be a Dominican sister because she was taught by Dominicans in grade school, and in 1971, she entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

She made her first profession of vows in 1975 and her final profession in 1980, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in early and middle school education from Ohio Dominican College (now University). She later earned a master's degree in educational theory and practice from Ohio State University and a chaplaincy certificate from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

Her first assignment as a sister was teaching 3- to 5-year-olds at the former St. Mary of the Springs Montessori School. In the Diocese of Columbus, she also taught at Columbus Holy Name School and Columbus Our Lady of Peace School. Her last teaching assignment was at Lancaster St. Mary School. Her career in education also included periods at schools in the Diocese of Steubenville and in Pennsylva-

nia, New York and Connecticut.

She has lived in Columbus since 1997, serving as a transcript evaluator at Ohio Dominican, in pastoral ministry at Nationwide Children's Hospital, in hospice ministry with Mount Carmel Health and as a tutor at the Dominican Learning Center.

"One of my longest assignments as a teacher was at a school in Rye, New York," Sister Nadine said. "Rye is one of the nation's wealthiest communities, and when I started a Christmas collection asking the children if they could bring in some of their clothes and toys to give to the poor, it was a real challenge. The parents didn't want their children to know about poor people.

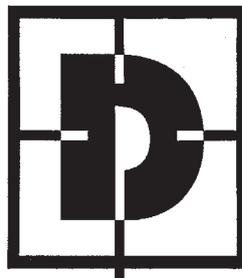
"But after a while, things started to change. Parents started to realize that it was important for their children to appreciate how fortunate they were and to know how they could use their wealth to help others. When I left Rye, many parents thanked me for educating both them and their children about poverty. That meant a lot."

Sister Nadine recognizes that she works in an area of Columbus where many people wouldn't venture but says that doesn't bother her.

"I don't go out there with blinders on. I know the situations I could be walking into, but God in his grace has given me the ability to do this work," she said. "I don't feel afraid when I'm on the streets. People sense this, and that's one reason they're able to trust me, and I can form a bond with them. I hope I'll be able to continue with this ministry for as long as I'm capable of doing the work."

To donate to Sister Nadine's work, mail a check to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Mission Advancement, Street Outreach, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus OH 43219. To contact her, call the receptionist at the sisters' motherhouse at (614) 416-1092.

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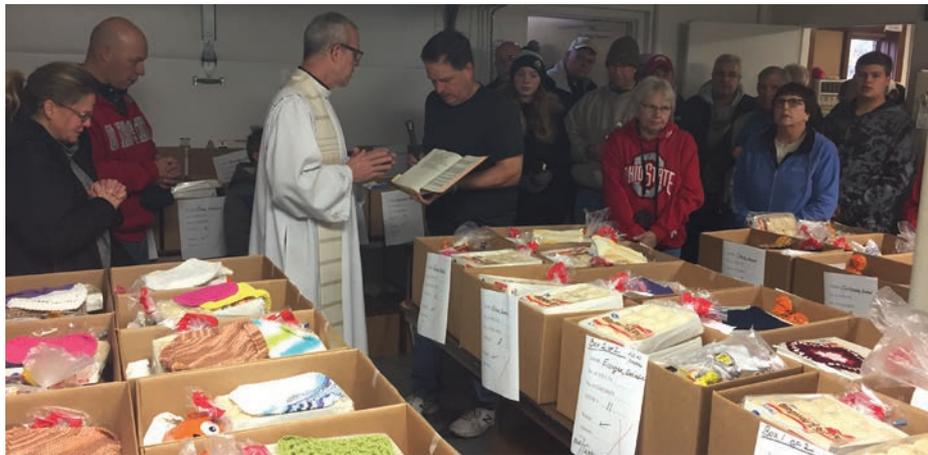
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St. Matthew food blessing



Father Ted Sill, pastor of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, blesses food distributed by the parish's charitable works ministry to needy parish families for Thanksgiving. A similar distribution is planned for Christmas to 100 families. The all-volunteer ministry helps families in Gahanna, Blacklick and Whitehall, serves as the food bank for the Gahanna ZIP code of 43230 and is connected to Hands On Central Ohio. It is located in the former parish convent and is open from 10 a.m. to noon Monday and Friday, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and other times by appointment. In 15 years, it has served 544,000 meals to 37,000 clients, including about 63,000 meals to 4,200 clients last year. It is not able to accept donations of clothing or household goods at this time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, call (614) 471-5320. *Photo courtesy St. Matthew Church*

Thanksgiving food collection



Members of Knights of Columbus Council 14962 and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Columbus Immaculate Conception School combined their efforts for a food collection on Thanksgiving Day. More than 2,000 items were collected – enough to fill the parish food pantry, with the excess going to Cardington Sacred Hearts Church's pantry and the Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resources Center.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church

Third Troop 16 member earns Eagle Scout rank in 2020



John Sullivan of Scout Troop 16 of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Scouting. John joins brothers Will and Jimmy as Troop 16 Eagle Scouts and father Mark, who also achieved Eagle rank. With the help of scoutmaster Nick Tippet and other Immaculate Conception volunteers, John built three park benches. He is the third scout from Troop 16 to earn the Eagle rank in 2020.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church

Students prepare Thanksgiving pies



Kindergarten students at Lancaster St. Bernadette School enjoyed scooping the meat from several pumpkins to help provide a traditional dessert to those in need in their community. Teacher Sharon Elder cooked the pumpkin and used it to prepare 10 pies, which were donated to Lancaster's Foundation Dinners organization for its Thanksgiving dinner. Students pictured are (from left) Arabella Seymour, Paige Connell and Maria Messerly. *Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School*

Lancaster students donate coats



While many things have been different this year, students at Lancaster St. Mary School still found a way to be of service to others. Students from multiple grades at the school are united into units known as houses, which promote school unity and take part in service projects and other activities. Leaders of the houses of St. John and St. Thomas are shown with coats they collected for donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Other houses collected toys for Fairfield County Job and Family Services.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

STUDENT, *continued from Page 3*

He is a member of the Student Council wellness committee, which promotes mental and physical well-being. “Wellness is so important this year because of the pandemic, and everyone’s in a different place,” he said. “It’s hard for a lot of students. The committee wants to provide a source of comfort. One of the things we’re doing is posting signs promoting mental health throughout the school, along with some pandemic humor. It’s a simple thing, but we hope it helps.”

The Student Council also helps coordinate the school’s annual Thanksgiving food drive benefiting St. Stephen’s Community House. The effort began in 1971 and has continued through five decades.

Courses Matthew is taking this year include psychology, calculus, physics, Spanish, theology and English. It’s a full schedule, but “you’ve got to stay positive and keep smiling, even on days when you have five tests,” he said. He also said he’s thinking of a career in psychology and is considering whether God might be calling him to the priesthood.

Being in a Catholic school gives him the chance to take part regularly in all-school Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, plus service projects and special events such as days of recollection and retreats. Prayers are said at the beginning of each school day and the start of every class.

The school’s principal is Deacon Chris Campbell. Its chaplain is Deacon Frank Iannarino, and it has nine theology teachers, giving students ample resources to share their faith journeys with adults and talk with them in and out of class about Church teachings.

“We’re students living the faith, and talking to adults helps us make our decisions in a way that’s consistent with Catholic belief,” Matthew said. “We don’t shy away from things. Students have hard questions on some things – gay marriage, for instance – and if they’re not brought up in class, we can engage our teachers about the subject outside of class, and they’ll hear what students have to say.”

Deacon Campbell said Matthew “is a faith-filled, mature and intelligent young man. He is well-respected by his peers as well as the faculty here at Bishop Watterson. I am most impressed by the fact that he is willing to share his faith unashamedly with others. He has a relationship with Jesus, and that permeates every aspect of his life.”

Matthew and his parents live in Columbus’ Clintonville neighborhood. His father, Jon, is an information technology manager, and his mother, Linda, is a veterinary technician. They lived in Delaware until moving to Clintonville three years ago to be closer to Jon’s job and still attend Delaware St. Mary Church, where Matthew is a lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and youth group leader.

“Mom is a cradle Catholic, and Dad became a Catholic shortly after they married, so I got most of my early experience in the Church through them,” Matthew said.

“I was a typical Catholic child who went to Mass every Sunday with my parents and didn’t think too



Matthew Heidenreich discusses how he lives and shares his Catholic faith. *Photo courtesy Andy Mackey*

much about the faith,” he said. “Then I began going to Catholic Youth Summer Camp (in Knox County) each year, and I began to gain more understanding.

“That’s where I first truly encountered Christ. Every Wednesday night, the camp has Eucharistic Adoration on the beach, with the campers just sitting there adoring Christ in nature. One year – I think it was my fourth year in camp – I was going into the school year feeling really anxious when I suddenly had this powerful feeling that’s just hard to describe. I could sense Jesus telling me to lay down my experiences at his feet. It was like an epiphany. Somehow, in that moment, I understood how Jesus cares for me personally and gives me strength.”

Matthew said this experience began to make him bolder in sharing his faith with others and encouraged him to seek out people who share his desire to become closer to Christ – “the people who will walk with you in daily life and go into the trenches with you.”

“Faith was never meant to be a solitary journey,” he said. “You never walk alone but were meant to

share it with other people.

“The main way I encounter Christ is through the Eucharist, where I can be present to him in a beautiful way – one in which I can become close to him and you can, too. I go often to the Adoration chapel at (Columbus) Immaculate Conception (Church) and the St. Therese Chapel at (Columbus) Holy Name (Church) for Eucharistic Adoration. Sometimes in those places, I experience a moment that’s beyond words. It’s a moment that’s hard to process, a time of intense communion with Christ, as though the clouds have parted and I can see him in my life and in my own heart.”

Matthew describes himself as “a Scripture nerd.” When the pandemic first struck and Ohioans were ordered to stay at home, he and some friends formed a virtual Bible study group that began in the book of Genesis and has continued through the Old Testament to the first book of Kings. He said studying the Bible has shown the group how God acted in the lives of the people of ancient times and how this can be related to how God acts in people’s lives today.

He also said that during the summer, the Holy Spirit inspired him to reach out to his fellow students by video in anticipation of the coming school year. “I’ve heard it takes 21 days to develop a habit, so I decided to do a blog titled ‘21 Days to Boldness’ in hopes other students would see it and join me in pursuit of holiness. We have so much potential here at Watterson, and I wanted to tap some of that,” he said.

During the first week of August, he and some friends put together a do-it-yourself retreat that includes 21 parts. Each portion is designed to be completed in 10 to 15 minutes and includes prayer, reflections, saint biographies, witness and a challenge related to a specific way to live boldly. The retreat is geared toward high school students, but anyone can take part.

Matthew said hard work by friends and by diocesan priests, including Fathers David Schalk, Dan Dury and Michael Watson, enabled the three-week retreat program to be put together in one week’s time. It was introduced on Monday, Aug. 10, with one part added daily through Sunday, Aug. 30, the day classes were to start in many schools. The complete retreat is available online at www.21dayretreat.wordpress.com.

“The success of the retreat was beyond my wildest dreams,” Matthew said. “We’ve had more than 4,000 page views and heard from people from at least 10 countries who said they were thankful for it. I couldn’t offer anything to anyone who was being involved with this, but they were so willing to give of themselves. I can’t thank them enough.”

“I’ve learned since my own encounter with Jesus that encounter is the most important part of faith,” he said. “It’s the moment when things began to make sense, when it’s not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Jesus himself. When that happens, you want to find others who know Jesus and learn from them while pursuing your own life. I’d like to encourage everyone to seek out such people so all of us can have our own encounters with Jesus.”

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

VIRUS POSED MANY CHALLENGES TO CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, FAITHFUL IN 2020

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects dominated the news of the year throughout the world, and it was no different for the Diocese of Columbus.

The virus resulted in the suspension of public Masses throughout Ohio for more than two months, with safe-distancing guidelines resulting in restrictions on how many people could attend Masses once they resumed. Masks covering the face from the nose down were required for Mass attendance.

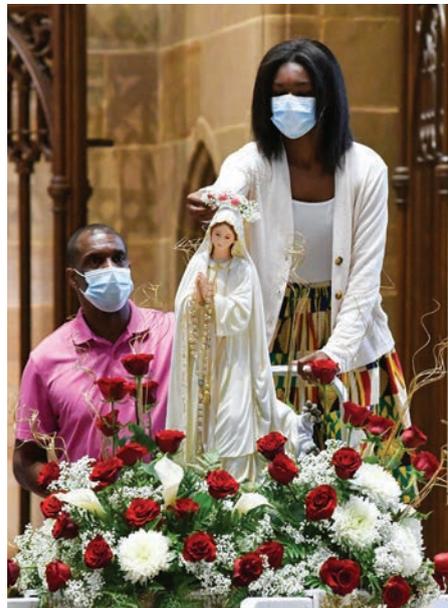
All parish festivals in the diocese, as well as other activities that would draw crowds, were canceled, switched to an online format or took place with attendance restrictions. Schools were closed in mid-March and did not reopen until the fall term, adopting distancing guidelines and mask requirements.

As the year ended, the development of vaccines brought hope for the end of the pandemic, but masks, safe distancing and attendance limits were expected to continue for at least a significant part of 2021.

The first COVID-19 cases in Ohio were reported in March. On March 12, Ohio's bishops dispensed all Catholics in the state from the obligation of attending Saturday vigil or Sunday Masses through the end of the month. Four days later, the bishops announced that all publicly celebrated Masses and other parish activities in the state would be suspended through Easter Sunday, April 12.

That suspension was extended twice, with public celebration of Masses resuming on Saturday, May 30. Suspension of the Mass attendance obligation remains in effect. When churches reopened, plexiglass or plastic barriers, ribbons and industrial tape marking areas where seating was prohibited were common sites because of guidelines requiring that individuals or family groups keep a 6-foot distance from one another when seated in pews or receiving the Eucharist.

Many parishes began offering live and recorded video streaming of daily and Sunday Masses while the churches were closed and continue to do so. This has allowed people with the virus and those who are in high-risk categories or fear contracting the virus to



Taylor Hickman of Columbus St. Dominic Church crowns a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Rosary Sunday. CT file photo

still be part of a Mass. Several churches have acknowledged those members of their unseen congregations by including recitation of an act of spiritual communion in the Mass during reception of the Eucharist.

Since the pandemic began, St. Gabriel Catholic Radio has broadcast a live Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral every day. Bishop Robert Brennan's Easter Sunday Mass from the cathedral was telecast live on WCMH-TV, Channel 4 in Columbus, which also presented the diocesan celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe from the cathedral on Saturday, Dec. 12. That event included a homily by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United States.

All of the state's schools, including the 42 elementary and 11 secondary schools of the Diocese of Columbus, were ordered closed in March, at first until April 5, then until May 1, and then for the rest of the 2019-20 academic year, with education moving to a distance-learning format.

This meant that traditional year-end events such as graduations and recognition ceremonies at various elementary and secondary school levels, as well as parts of the state high school basketball tournament and all spring sports, were canceled, moved online or drastically altered.

All 53 diocesan schools opened in the fall, with each adopting its own plan to educate students while observ-



The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest celebrated its first Mass in Columbus on Oct. 1 at the renamed St. Leo the Great Oratory (formerly St. Leo Church) after Bishop Robert Brennan invited the order to serve the Latin Mass community in the diocese.



Bishop Robert Brennan ordained (from left) Fathers Michael Fulton, Seth Keller and Frank Brown to the priesthood in June at St. Joseph Cathedral. CT file photo

ing safety precautions. Each school's opening plan was based on a three-tiered approach designed so schools could shift quickly among levels, depending on conditions in their area and building needs.

Tier 1 involved normal operations and face-to-face instruction, with safety protocols in place. Tier 2 featured hybrid learning, with partial in-person and partial distance learning. Tier 3 was full distance learning, with all instruction provided in a digital format.

Some schools used available space in parish buildings to allow all students to attend classes while maintaining proper distance. Others placed students into groups that alternated between in-school and at-home learning days.

Classes at Ohio Dominican University (ODU), the Pontifical College Josephinum and the Mount Carmel College of Nursing also moved from

on-campus to online to complete the 2019-20 academic year.

ODU's fall semester began on schedule on Aug. 17 with a hybrid format of online and in-person classes. Classes went online-only for the rest of the semester after the Thanksgiving break. The spring semester is tentatively set to start on Monday, Jan. 11 with a hybrid format.

The nursing college turned to remote learning on March 11 and is continuing in that format, except for some laboratory courses that require a student's presence. The college's faculty will determine if in-person experiences might be helpful during mainly virtual classes.

Seminarians at the Josephinum were sent home in mid-March and finished the rest of the 2019-20 academic year by learning remotely. The pandemic also meant seminarians were unable to be sent to assist diocesan parishes during the summer. Classes resumed in late August, with students staying on campus for the Thanksgiving break, finishing classes and then returning home to take examinations online from Dec. 14-18. The seminarians are scheduled to resume classes at the college on Monday, Jan. 11.

The 2021 Columbus Catholic Women's Conference, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20, was canceled, with the next conference scheduled for February 2022. The Columbus Catholic

YEAR IN REVIEW, continued from Page 10

Men's Conference will take place as scheduled on Saturday, Feb. 27, but in an online-only format.

The diocesan office building in downtown Columbus was closed in mid-March, was reopened on July 1, and was closed again on Nov. 25 because the number of COVID-19 cases in Ohio had reached record levels. Most diocesan employees have been working from home since mid-March.

Most state businesses were closed for at least two months as a result of "stay-at-home" and "stay-safe" orders issued by Gov. Mike DeWine. That led to a dramatic increase in unemployment and increased need for many diocesan services – a need that grew throughout the year.

The Catholic Foundation started an emergency response fund for use by food pantries and parishes with \$250,000 in seed money. The fund has grown to more than \$725,000, with more than \$365,000 distributed to 40 parishes and \$204,000 going to 14 pantries, leaving about \$175,000 to be distributed.

The diocesan Office of Development and Planning set up an online giving platform called "A Time for Extreme Charity" on its website. Through its secure online vendor, Faith Direct, the platform allows weekly, monthly or one-time payments to the diocese itself, the tuition assistance fund for diocesan schools or any of the diocese's churches or elementary and secondary schools.

Bishop Brennan in September announced two mergers affecting five small Scioto County parishes, effective Jan. 1, 2021. The congregation, territory and property of New Boston St. Monica and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains churches were merged, with their care being entrusted to the pastor of St. Peter in Chains. A similar merger involved West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows, Otway Our Lady of Lourdes and Pond Creek Holy Trinity churches, with their care being entrusted to the pastor of Holy Trinity.

Father Joseph Yokum had been named pastor of all those churches, plus St. Mary and Holy Redeemer churches in Portsmouth, effective July 14, with Father Patrick Watika of the Apostles of Jesus as parochial vicar. This puts all the parishes in Scioto County under one pastorate, known as the Scioto Catholic Consortium.

St. Peter and St. Mary churches in Chillicothe, as well as Waverly St. Mary Church, all were placed under the care of one pastor after the retirement of Father Lawrence



The diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society opened a 16,000-square foot thrift store in January on Columbus' east side that sells donated furniture, clothing, household goods and other items.
CT file photo



Students at Columbus Bishop Watterson and other diocesan schools returned to the classroom while following physical distancing guidelines at the start of the fall semester after finishing the 2019-20 school year with virtual learning when coronavirus shutdowns went into effect in mid-March.
Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson

Hummer as pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary. Father Timothy Hayes is pastor, and Father Milton Kiocha of the Apostles of Jesus is parochial vicar for the three parishes.

Father William Hahn, who had been pastor at Chillicothe St. Peter and Waverly St. Mary, was chosen by Bishop Brennan to be diocesan vocations director, succeeding Father Paul Noble, and has become director of pastoral and apostolic formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

St. Therese's Retreat Center in Columbus and Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark were closed, effective July 1, because of a decrease in their use that resulted from more parishes having facilities of their own.

The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, a cloistered congregation of 12 sisters, established a temporary

monastery in September at the former Sts. Peter and Paul center. Options for a permanent monastery site for the order are being considered. The diocese had been without a monastery of cloistered nuns since the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration left their monastery in Portsmouth (now the St. Francis Evangelization Center) and moved to North Carolina in 2010.

The St. Therese's center is to be used for other purposes yet to be determined.

The former Columbus St. Leo Church was entrusted in October to the care of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest and was renamed the St. Leo the Great Oratory. It will serve as the home of the diocese's Latin Mass Community, with Canon David Silvey of the institute as rector and a daily schedule

of Masses celebrated in the 1962 Extraordinary Form, also known as the Tridentine Mass or, more familiarly, the Latin Mass.

Two priests of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, familiarly known as the Pallottine Order in honor of its founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, began serving at Columbus St. Christopher Church, which formerly was staffed by priests of the Diocese of Columbus. They are Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, pastor, and Father Andrej Kozminski, SAC, parochial vicar.

Father Anish Thomas, HGN, and Father Jins Kuppakara Devasia, HGN, priests of the Heralds of Good News, an order founded and based in India, are expected to arrive in the diocese in 2021 once their immigration paperwork is complete.

Members of two orders of sisters new to the diocese arrived in central Ohio in September within a few days of each other.

Two members of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, a congregation based in Poland and serving four other dioceses in the United States, are residing in the Columbus Sacred Heart Church convent. They will perform works of charity among the most vulnerable.

Two Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro are living in the convent of Columbus St. Ladislav Church and will be involved in health care and pastoral work. The congregation is based in Tanzania and has one other convent in the United States, located in Clearwater, Florida. Bishop Brennan has invited six sisters from the order to the diocese – four to work in nursing homes and two for pastoral work – and it's hoped the additional four will come once the first two are established.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary opened their second convent in the diocese in the former Columbus St. Aloysius Church, where two sisters of the order are engaging in a ministry of nursing and pastoral care. Three sisters of the order serve parishes in Chillicothe and Waverly and have been based at Chillicothe St. Peter Church since 2014.

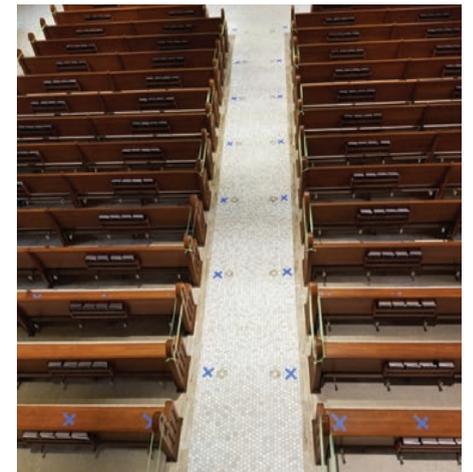
In addition, the sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Word, who have convents at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr and Christ the King churches, opened a formation house in the former Columbus Corpus



Bishop Robert Brennan celebrates Easter Sunday Mass from an empty St. Joseph Cathedral in April. The Mass was livestreamed and also televised by WCMH-TV in Columbus after Ohio's bishops suspended public gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Sister Karla Archundia, HMSM, of the Sister Servants of the Word and two women in formation participate in a World Mission Sunday Mass in October. CT file photos



Churches adapted to physical distancing norms upon returning from a two-month suspension of public worship.

YEAR IN REVIEW, continued from Page 11

Christi Church convent for young women considering the religious life.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church was closed temporarily in late February after being declared unsafe by the Mid-East Ohio Building Department, which inspects all structures regulated by the state building code in Muskingum County. Weekend Masses have been taking place in the parish center, with weekday Masses at nearby Zanesville St. Nicholas Church while repairs are being made.

Bishop Brennan dedicated the new faith and family center at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church in February. The 6,503-square-foot building includes additional meeting rooms, offices and an auxiliary worship and conference room with a warming kitchen.

The pandemic closed the Jubilee Museum, which houses the nation's largest collection of diverse Catholic artwork. When it reopens, it will be at a new site – the Catholic Foundation building at 257 E. Broad St. in Columbus, which is across the street from St. Joseph Cathedral and is most familiarly known as the site of the original Wendy's restaurant.

The museum had been in the former Columbus Holy Family School since shortly after its founding in 1998. Its displays were spread over former classrooms and hallways on two floors of the 108-year-old school building, which is not accessible to the disabled. The new site will be accessible and will have all the exhibits in one area.

The diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society opened a thrift store in January in the Carnaby Center at 5969 E. Main St. on Columbus' east side, the location of a former T.J. Maxx store. The site has about 16,500 square feet

of space filled with donated furniture, clothing, household goods and a variety of other items and is open daily. The society has smaller stores in Newark and Zanesville and hopes to open additional locations in Columbus.

Pat Summers retired as the society's administrative assistant in May after 30 years in the position.

Laura Lewis accepted the position of interim victims' assistance coordinator for the diocese in July, replacing Msgr. Stephan Moloney. She works with survivors of clergy sexual abuse of minors and has overall responsibility for the victim assistance program and related resources utilized within the diocese.

Leandro "Lany" Tapay retired after 13 years as diocesan missions director so he could care for his ailing wife. Succeeding him was Sister Zephрина Mary Gracykuty, FIH, who had been pastoral assistant at Chillicothe St. Peter Church.

Bruce Boylan retired as diocesan facilities director in June after six years and was succeeded by associate director Bob Sisson.

The first president of Cristo Rey Columbus High School, Jim Foley, retired after nine years in the position and was succeeded by Joe Patrick, an accountant who has been a board member or an adviser for several local Catholic organizations and has done several annual audits for Cristo Rey.

ODU's president, Dr. Robert Gervasi, announced that he will retire in June 2021. He recently turned 70 and will have served four years as president at the time of his retirement.

Father Michael Hartge, who had been pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes, was appointed as diocesan vice chancellor in June. He filled a position that had been vacant

since Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., who had been vice chancellor, became diocesan chancellor in 2012. Father Hartge is in residence at Columbus St. Peter Church and works at the diocesan Chancery.

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club honored Dr. Raymond Sheridan of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church as its Catholic Man of the Year. Sheridan is the founder of a ministry known as Mary's Hands, through which he and other men and the parish deliver food to the homeless and others in need on weekends and learn other ways they can be of assistance.

The club had to cancel most of its 2020 activities because of the coronavirus but plans to present the award in 2021.

Bishop Brennan ordained three diocesan priests on June 13. The priests and their first assignments as parochial vicars are: Father Frank Brown, Columbus St. Brendan Church; Father Michael Fulton, Columbus Christ the King Church; and Father Seth Keller, Columbus St. Cecilia Church. Their ordination was scheduled for May 23 but was delayed for three weeks because of the coronavirus.

Father Irenaeus Dunlevy of Canal Winchester was ordained a priest of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) on May 23 at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington by that city's archbishop, Wilton Gregory, who was raised to the rank of cardinal on Nov. 20. Father Dunlevy is studying for a licentiate in sacred theology and is living at the St. Dominic Priory in Washington.

Deacon Jacob Stinnett was ordained on June 12 by the bishop at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and Deacon Stephen Ondrey of Columbus was

ordained by Auxiliary Bishop Robert Hennessey of Boston on April 15 at the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Massachusetts. Deacon Stinnett's ordination was delayed from May 2, and Deacon Ondrey's ordination, which also was to have been on that date, was ahead of schedule, both because of the coronavirus.

Both deacons are in their final year of theology studies at their respective institutions and anticipate being ordained as priests of the Diocese of Columbus in May.

Bishop Brennan also ordained Deacon Emmanuel Ingabere, a Josephinum student, on June 12. He will serve as a priest in the Diocese of Gikongoro, Rwanda, after ordination.

In addition, the bishop ordained 10 permanent deacons on Nov. 7 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. They are Deacons Daniel Dowler, James Elchert, Jesus Figueroa Jr., Jeffrey Hurdley, Nicholas Klear, Victor Nduaguba, Mark O'Loughlin, Christopher Walsh, Eric Wright and Douglas Yglesias.

Msgr. Robert L. Noon died on Oct. 15 at age 97. He had been a priest for 69 years and was the senior priest of the Diocese of Columbus.

He was the founding pastor of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church and was pastor of Waverly St. Mary and Lancaster St. Bernadette churches. In his 27 years of retirement, he served as administrator of several parishes and assisted at several others.

He also was involved in the diocesan Cursillo, Cum Christo and Charismatic Renewal movements, served with the Carmelite Fathers' mission in Sicuani, Peru, and for one year was

YEAR IN REVIEW, *continued from Page 12*

pastor in residence at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Father Michael J. Reis, 78, died on Feb. 14.

He had been a priest for 52 years and served as pastor at Columbus St. Christopher Church from 1986 to 1998 and Heath St. Leonard Church from 1998 until his retirement in 2013. He was very involved in communication activities, directing the newly formed Diocesan Office of Radio and Television for several years in the 1970s, and then being released for service to the Archdiocese of San Francisco, where he assisted with its communication outreach for five years.

Msgr. Carl P. Clagett Jr., 90, died on April 4.

His service as a diocesan priest for 64 years included pastorates at Gahanna St. Matthew, Danville St. Luke, Columbus Corpus Christi and Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medals churches.

Father Raymond M. Larussa, 72, died on Nov. 26.

He was a priest for 46 years and was pastor of Waverly St. Mary, Columbus St. Cecilia, Columbus Holy Spirit, Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Matthias churches.

Msgr. David V. Sorohan, 86, died on Dec. 25.

He was a priest for more than 60 years and served as pastor at Columbus St. Peter and St. Catharine of Siena churches. He was also assistant superintendent and later superintendent of diocesan schools and diocesan vic-

ar for education; a teacher and assistant principal at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and principal at Marion Catholic High School; and a judge of the diocesan Tribunal. He served as a chaplain for the Columbus police and fire divisions and was a member of many diocesan and civic boards and committees.

Father Eugene R. Linowski, 89, died on April 13.

He was pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church from 1987 to 2004. He originally was ordained a priest of the Franciscan order of the Roman Catholic Church in 1957, became a priest of the Byzantine rite in 1972 and was permitted to celebrate in both rites.

Father William B. Schmitt, SSC, died on Oct. 10, 2019.

In 2005 and 2006, he was in residence at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church and assisted at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church, where he was known as "Padre Bernado." His knowledge of Spanish and service as a missionary in Chile for 16 years were of significant assistance to that parish's large Latino community. He was a member of the Columban Order of missionary priests for 51 years and also served in South Korea for 15 years and at parishes in New Mexico, Illinois, Nebraska and California.

Father Edward M. Gaffney, OP, 98, died on Jan. 27 at Ohio State University East Hospital, ending 70 years of service to the church as a Dominican friar. He had been a resident of the Mohun Health Care Center since

2015 and was the oldest friar in the Dominicans' St. Joseph Province.

His pastoral and preaching ministries included 14 years as a U.S. Army chaplain in Germany, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea and Washington, D.C.; nine years as prior of St. Dominic's Priory in Washington; eight years as an itinerant preacher of parish missions and retreats; and eight years as a teacher and formation director at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Father William J. Burke, OP, 91, a resident of the Mohun center since 2017, died on Feb. 10. He was a Dominican friar for 59 years, including 42 years at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington.

Father Robert Bauer, SDB, 78, died on March 23. He was a Salesian priest for 48 years and taught classes on the Old Testament at the Josephinum from 1976 to 2001.

Deacon Jerry J. Butts, 76, died on March 18.

He was a deacon for 39 years, serving at Columbus Corpus Christi Church from the time of his ordination until 2017 and periodically helping at Columbus St. Ladislav Church until the two churches became part of a parish cluster.

Deacon Gilbert L. Plummer, 77, died on April 26.

He was a deacon for 22 years and ministered at Hilliard St. Brendan Church from his ordination in 1997 until his retirement.

Religious sisters who died in late 2019 and 2020 and served in, or were

native of, the Diocese of Columbus, or who were living in the diocese at the time of their deaths, were: Sister Marie Altier, OSF, 95, Dec. 17, 2019; Sister Joan Marie Hill, OP, 88, Dec. 21; Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN, 81, Dec. 31; Sister Rita Imelda Sullivan, OP, 84, Jan. 5, 2020; Sister Carol Diederich, OSF, 95, Jan. 27; Sister Maliya Bearinger, OP, 89, Jan. 31; Sister Annunciata Muth, OSU, 93, Feb. 9; Sister Eileen Barrett, OSF, 89, Feb. 15; Sister M. Anthony Reichmuth, OSF, 92, Feb. 16; Sister Rosina Amicon, OSF, 90, March 2; Sister Mary Joan Kane, OP, 91, March 26; Sister Thomasine Hardesty, OP, 94, April 5; Sister Frances Joseph Hildebrand, OSF, 98, April 11; Sister Victoria Marie Butler, OP, 91, April 12; Sister Monica Mary DeQuardo, OSF, 79, May 2; Sister Jean Herman Dykstra, OSF, 77, May 5; Sister Mary Franz, OSF, 103, May 7; Sister Annunciata Chen, OP, 100, May 12; Sister Joyce Hoben, SNDdeN, 91, May 28; Sister Mary Berendt, OSF, 81, June 12; Sister Maureen Sauer, SNDdeN, 85, June 19; Sister Dolores Flavin, OP, 89, June 23; Sister Melinda Burkhart, OP, 84, June 25; Sister Rose Marie Canty, CSC, 94, July 21; Sister Mary Petra Flavin, OP, 95, Aug. 8; Sister Miriam Dosch, OSF, 84, Aug. 17; Sister Mary Hoguet, OP, 98, Nov. 10; Sister Edwina Devlin, OP, 106, Nov. 15; Sister Mary Linda Lorenz, OP, 90, Dec. 13, 2020; Sister Mary Margaret Fischer, SNDdeN, 93, Dec. 17, 2020; and Sister Jeanne Brown, OP, 86, Dec. 26.

St. Andrew students bake cookies



Fifth-graders at Columbus St. Andrew School have been learning about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and putting these ideas into action. Working closely with St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers Dan Fleck and John Seguin, the students baked more than 120 dozen cookies for St. Lawrence Haven, a pantry that serves sack lunches to about 250 hungry people a day. Zoom meetings with St. Vincent de Paul volunteers have given the students a glimpse of what stewardship looks like in the larger community.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

St. Anthony students make wreaths



Columbus St. Anthony School kindergarten students and eighth-graders worked together making Advent wreaths. Pictured are eighth-grade student August Sabo and his sister, Scarlett, a kindergarten student.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Epiphany of the Lord Cycle B

Wisdom of the Magi

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

It sounds like the opening of a joke: Three Wise Guys come into town ...

How do we follow the will of God? How do we discover the right path to wholeness? The Magi have some advice:

- Prepare provisions.
- Be willing to go a great distance.
- When you find your guide, stick to it.
- Don't be fooled by the big city lights.
- Be ready to go on a bit farther than you expect.
- Give it all you've got: your gold, your frankincense, your myrrh.
- Don't be surprised if the return trip is different from the first part of the journey.

Here's one that comes from the practice of most parishes who sing "We Three Kings" on Epiphany Sunday:

- Expect your song to be cut short because people are in a hurry to get on with their journey.

God has a plan. It is revealed in Jesus Christ. At the same time, it is hidden, unfolding, all around us. It is given to us along the way. To begin the journey, we must put faith into practice.

We cannot know God as He knows Himself. We cannot understand as God understands, for He is the One Who Stands Under all that IS. And yet we can know that God's plan is universal.

No one is left out. No divisions, separations, misunderstandings, doubts, fears, hurts, incompleteness or even refusals and deceptions can stand in the way of the fulfillment of the plan. If we don't join in the plan, it is still for us, but we can choose to be left out.

We are invited to see as God sees. Today we are invited to see Jesus for Who He IS. We are invited to open our eyes to see God's glory in each human being. We are invited to journey on the way to unity of heart, mind and spirit.

We are called to assent to the truth of salvation according to God's plan: Today, we are called to acknowledge Jesus as Savior through the gift of baptismal life. We are called to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of Glory through the transformation

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



He brings about in us – changing the water of our ordinary lives into the very wine of Heaven. We are called to acknowledge Jesus as the Universal Redeemer, who unites East and West, Jew and Gentile, every human culture and God's own life.

Epiphany is the bursting forth into our world of the divine nature that is the destiny of all who cooperate with God's plan. How wise are you? Do you get it? Will you respond? It is yours to receive if you are open to receive it. Are you ready for the journey? Pack your bags!

Gold, frankincense and myrrh serve as symbols of the gifts we bring to show our readiness to acknowledge the Lord. Our gift of self, our willingness to be humble before God's plan, and our willingness to go the whole journey, even though suffering is represented by the Magi's choices of gifts for the newborn King.

Epiphany reveals to us a deep truth: Glory shines out through weakness. We see Christ in three moments of His earthly journey where His glory was made known:

- An infant before kings with wealth – the gold, frankincense and myrrh from the Magi are the wealth of the nations coming to acknowledge Israel's God.
- A common man standing in the midst of a people repenting – Jesus is baptized by John at the Jordan River.
- A couple whose wine runs out – Water made wine at the wedding feast of Cana at Mary's request

The world claims power in material ways – money, relationships, and violence. With eyes formed by the invitation of Epiphany, faith sees that the power of God shines out in our weakness. God has already placed the true power like a seed within us awaiting Revelation.

Look deep into your own heart. Look at your neighbor. Attend to your own journey and our journey together. Where do you see weakness? Where do you see the hints of glory?

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

1/4-1/9

MONDAY

1 John 3:22-4:6
 Psalm 2:7bc-8,10-12a
 Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

TUESDAY

1 John 4:7-10
 Psalm 72:1-4,7-8
 Mark 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY

1 John 4:11-18
 Psalm 72:1-2,10,12-13
 Mark 6:45-52

THURSDAY

1 John 4:19-5:4
 Psalm 72:1-2,14,15bc,17
 Luke 4:14-22a

FRIDAY

1 John 5:5-13
 Psalm 147:12-15,19-20
 Luke 5:12-16

SATURDAY

1 John 5:14-21
 Psalm 149:1-6a,7b
 John 3:22-30

1/11-1/16

MONDAY

Hebrews 1:1-6
 Psalm 97:1,2b,6,7c,9
 Mark 1:14-20

TUESDAY

Hebrews 2:5-12
 Psalm 8:2ab,5-9
 Mark 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY

Hebrews 2:14-18
 Psalm 105:1-4,6-9
 Mark 1:29-39

THURSDAY

Hebrews 3:7-14
 Psalm 95:6-7c,8-11
 Mark 1:40-45

FRIDAY

Hebrews 4:1-5,11
 Psalm 78:3,4bc,6c-8
 Mark 2:1-12

SATURDAY

Hebrews 4:12-16
 Psalm 19:8-10,15
 Mark 2:13-17

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF JAN. 3 & 10, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m.,

and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only),

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

We pray Week II and I of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Baptism of the Lord Cycle B

Baptism opens door to sacraments, eternal life

Isaiah 55:1-11
or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
or Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38
or Acts 10:34-38
Mark 1:7-11

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the close of the liturgical season of Christmas. It plunges us into the mystery of Jesus as the Sacrament who reveals the Father and the Church as the Sacrament that makes

Christ known in the world through the power of the Spirit.

The Baptism of Jesus is a turning point in the life of our Savior and of the world. In this moment, something new is born that can only grow: a connection between the Creator and His Creation that goes beyond the fact of mere existence. What is given is life. The life of the trinity is made clear in our human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. What opens in Him is for

SCRIPTURE, *continued from Page 14*

all of us a source of grace and light and strength.

There are three basic movements as Mark describes the Baptism:

- Jesus comes from Nazareth to be baptized.

- He comes up out of the water and sees the heavens torn open and the Spirit descending on Him.

- He hears a voice from the heavens: “You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”

These movements are part of our own experience of the sacramental life of the Church:

- We come from our own homes to receive the Sacraments. Not being able to do this has been one of the greatest burdens of the response to the coronavirus.

- The grace of each Sacrament we receive connects us with Heaven and with God’s Spirit.

- God speaks in Word and Sacrament to tell us of His Love for us in Jesus Christ.

Our call is to respond to the grace that is offered. We are meant to bring Heaven and earth together by our cooperation with that grace. Once baptized, we experience a grace that is always available and always flowing, unless we put blocks to that grace by sin.

We are called to be a people who live the Sacraments. We not only receive them, but, in a sense, we enter into them. We become the means by which God’s grace enters the world. We are baptized into Christ.

- The Sacraments of Initiation lead us into the Christ life: Baptism, Con-

firmation, Eucharist.

- The Sacraments of Healing offer assistance in overcoming the blocks to grace: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

- The Sacraments of Relationship free us to love in cooperation with other members of the Church: Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders.

All are called to a baptismal commitment. Baptism is the Sacrament that opens for us the doorway to eternity and to the Sacraments. We live the grace of our Baptism in all that we do, as long as we don’t impede its flow by our choice of sin.

There are sinful and selfish choices. We are growing accustomed to the status quo, to getting what we want. At times, we congratulate ourselves on our good fortune or on our own achievement. And we rest on our laurels. Baptism calls us to live differently than that.

We are to begin our eternity now. We are to discern in each moment the capacity given to us through faith to choose what lasts over whatever passes away. If we are honest, we will have to admit that we have become careless and sloppy. We choose ourselves more often than not. We give, but not truly of ourselves and not truly out of altruistic motives.

Jesus’ Baptism reveals that the Spirit comes down on our human nature and transforms it. We become capable of living divine life humanly. God asks us for a response – a commitment to be who He calls us to be. We are baptized in Christ, let us live in Him.

BISHOP, *continued from Page 2*

rican-American man in a police-related incident. Our voices cry out in earnest to the heavens, “When, O Lord, O when.” There is so much pain, so much sorrow.

This year has brought about the frustration of the plans and desires of all of us. It has made what should be joyful events, such as weddings and the like, tense – even a little painful – and sorrowful events, such as funerals, even more excruciating.

It has called for more patience, understanding, flexibility and forgiveness. There is tumult, fear, fatigue

and isolation all around.

We are perhaps more aware of the extent of the sufferings and grief of those around us. We cry out for justice and an end to violence, discrimination, hatred and attacks on human life, especially at the most vulnerable stages but at every moment for every person.

Friends, we find our strength and hope with Mary and Joseph gazing intently on Jesus. Here we encounter the truth of God’s love and his larger plan:

- He comes to be with you, to walk

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

LAST THINGS

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

D	I	E	E	S	V	G	O	A	R	Y	C	G	P	G
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with you, to laugh with you and cry with you, to share your joy and hope, your grief and anguish.

- He comes as a child weak and poor to identify with you, to shoulder your burdens with you, to help you.

- He comes to share our humanity so that we might share his divinity.

- He loves us and wants us back one day.

Like Mary and Joseph, if we look carefully and listen attentively, we might even find that we are actors in that great “theo-drama” of God saving the world, playing our parts

in simple but important ways – even despite our plans and desires.

Christmas is not about wishes, plans and desires, but rather about hope and truth.

God dwells among us. Listen attentively to God with openness to the signs of His presence and be receptive to his plans, and not simply our own.

Look lovingly at Jesus. He loves you – he loves you very much and he wants to dwell with you to help you and to lead you to his glory.

Merry Christmas.

Sister Mary Margaret Fischer, SNDdeN

Sister Mary Margaret Fischer, SNDdeN, 93, died Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati.

She was born on June 28, 1927 in Bellport, New York to the late Edward and Lillian (Keute) Fischer.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Our Lady of Cincinnati College in 1960, a Master of Arts degree in language arts from Webster College in St. Louis in 1970 and a Master's degree in religious education from St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto in 1983.

She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on Feb. 3, 1945 and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 13, 1947, taking the name Sister

Catherine Joan, and her final profession on the same date in 1952.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she taught at Columbus St. Aloysius (1948-1950), St. Augustine (1970-73) and St. Joseph (1973-77) schools, and was a pastoral minister at Columbus St. Agnes Church (1977-1981, 1990-1994), the Perry County Consortium of Parishes (1987-1990) and Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church (1998-2000).

She also was a teacher at schools in Cincinnati, Dayton and Detroit, a pastoral minister in West Virginia and a religious education consultant for the Diocese of Steubenville. She was involved in community service at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center.

Sister Mary Linda Lorenz, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Linda Lorenz, OP, 90, who died Sunday, Dec. 13, was celebrated Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Eileen Lorenz on Oct. 15, 1930 to Frank and Isabel (Seipel) Lorenz.

She graduated from Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University) in 1960 and a Master of Arts degree in guidance and counseling from Fairfield (Connecticut) University in 1970.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1948 and made her profession

of vows on July 7, 1950.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she taught at Newark St. Francis de Sales School (1958-1960), Columbus St. Gabriel School (1967-69) and Portsmouth Notre Dame High School (1990-1992), was an auditor for the diocesan Tribunal (1994-2005) and ministered at the Dominican Learning Center (2006-2014). In addition, she was a teacher in the Diocese of Steubenville and in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Michigan and New Mexico. In many of her teaching assignments, she also taught music and was choir director. In 2014, she entered Mohun Health Care Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by brothers Terrence, Thomas and James. Survivors include brothers, Christopher and Robert; and sisters, Sister de Chantal Lorenz, OP, Judith Hosler, Linda Peeler and Mary Francis.

Mary V. Van Camp

Funeral Mass for Mary V. Van Camp, 99, who died Sunday, Dec. 20, was celebrated Wednesday, Dec. 30 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was a seventh-grade teacher for many years at Columbus St. Timothy School. She formerly was a member of Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle Church, where she served as a lector and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. She also was a volunteer with the Building Responsibility, Equality and

Dignity (BREAD) organization and the Dominican Learning Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Anna (Hoeffler) Schmidt; husband, Melvin; daughter, Jane; and brothers, William, Hank, Richard, Brother John Baptist Schmidt and Father Robert R. Schmidt. Survivors include sons, Andrew (Rachel) and John (Theresa); daughters, Anne Ventimiglia and Rita Ramseyer; brother, James (Mary); 14 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Norma Johanni, 78, died Saturday Dec. 12. She was born on Jan. 25, 1942.

She was a member of Columbus St. Andrew Church, a dame grand cross

of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a founding member of Cradling Christianity for the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land and a past president of the Christ

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALEXANDER, Mary J. (Eramo), 93, Dec. 14
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

ANTONELLI, Mary E., 98, Dec. 15
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

BAJO, Kathleen, 72, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 16
St. Pius X Church, Granger, Ind.

BAUMAN, Bernadine A. (Trapp), 98, Dec. 13
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

BRADLEY, Mary K. (Sigrinst), 93, Nov. 11
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

CIANFLONA, John, 93, Dec. 13
St. Mary Church, Delaware

COYLE, Marjorie M., Dec. 12
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

DIBLE, Theresa (Brown), 89, Dec. 11
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

EATON, Ronald A., 87, Dec. 20
St. John Church, Logan

ELDER, Nancy L. (Bastian), 84, Dec. 11
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

GIANETTINO, Samuel F., 78, Dec. 5
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

GOETTEMOELLER, Bernice E. (Kremer), 80, Dec. 10
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

GRAFT, Donald E., 88, Dec. 18
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

HANDWERK, Franziska (Orf), 88, Dec. 22
Christ the King Church, Columbus

HAY, Betty M. (Johnson), 89, Dec. 21
St. Paul Church, Westerville

HERZBERG, Patricia J. (Gonot), 81, Dec. 12
Christ the King Church, Columbus

HILL=STICKLE, Sharon M., 65, Dec. 22
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

HORNER, Robert W. "Jack" Jr., 88, Dec. 18
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

KAISER, Barbara (Weis), 89, Dec. 16
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

KINGERY, Jeanne (Fronhoefer), 90, Dec. 19
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

Child Society of Columbus.

She was preceded in death by a granddaughter. Survivors include her husband, Wally; sons, Chip (Tina) and Andy (Cathy); daughter, Kathy (David)

KOHLER, William C., 78, Dec. 6
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

LEE, Janet C. (Lieber), 82, Dec. 18
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

MANGON, Herman H., 91, Dec. 11
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

MAYHEW, Michael L., 79, Dec. 24
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown

MEYER, Ida N. (Wheaton), 90, Dec. 20
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

NITSCH, Alice D., 89, Dec. 16
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

PETTORINI, John H., 75, Dec. 24
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

PYATT, Leo, 95, Dec. 14
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

RAYMOND, Grace M. (Mattingly), 100, Nov. 23
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

RITCHEY, Regina E. (Joseph), 90, Dec. 18
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

SCULLY, Stephen E., 53, Dec. 17
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

SHALOSKY, Thomas D., 80, Dec. 22
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown

SLANE, Mary L. (Johnson), 89, Dec. 13
St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Pickerington

STARK, Letha E., 99, Dec. 25
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

STEGER, Patrick J., 68, Dec. 19
Holy Family Church, Columbus

STOLL, Kevin M., 45, Dec. 16
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

WALDROP, Helga, 82, Dec. 16
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

WOLFE, Tamara, 42, Dec. 20
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

YOUNG, Sandra A. (Davis), 85, Nov. 20
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

Miller; sisters, Karen (Andy) Lacher, Vicki (Edd) Chinnock, Mary Ringenberg (Alan Jordan) and Jan (Denny) Hartman; five grandsons; three granddaughters; and a great-grandson.

At Egan-Ryan, 'it's a privilege' to serve bereaved

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

In 1850, a 20-year-old from County Tipperary in Ireland named Patrick Egan and two of his sisters left their homeland for America as part of a massive migration caused by the Irish potato famine of the 1840s.

Egan told a historian he had \$2.50 in his pocket when the three arrived in New York City. He found employment for himself and his sisters in Washington County, New York, and then moved to Boston to work in a foundry. It's not known what happened to his sisters, but he came to Columbus in 1852, worked for a lawyer and at a state hospital, and then went to California in 1855 as part of the gold rush of that era.

No one knows if he found gold, but when he came back to Columbus in 1859, he bought two carriages and started a livery stable.

In those pre-automobile days, when someone died, people would rent a horse and carriage to take the casket containing the dead person's remains to a cemetery for burial. As a result, some stable owners also became funeral directors – or undertakers, as they were known then. So it was with Patrick Egan, whose business was known as P.A. Egan Livery and Undertaking. Several generations later, that business endures.

The horses were replaced by hearses, but the company Egan founded, now known as the Egan-Ryan Funeral Home, has the same mission it did more than 160 years ago – offering funeral and burial services that allow survivors to mourn their loss, celebrate the life of the deceased and be strengthened by the support of family and friends.

"It's a privilege to play an integral role in people's lives at such a special time," said Bob Ryan, the Egan-Ryan company's president. "You're only part of their lives for a few days, but we're grateful to be called on during such a critical period. We have handled funerals for some families for three or four generations. It's an honor to know they continue to trust us through the decades."

Bob Ryan represents the fourth generation of the Egan family to be part of the company. Bob's son Kevin represents the fifth generation. Andy Ryan, a cousin, also a fourth-generation family member, is the only other Egan descendant involved with the business.

The "Ryan" in the funeral home's name comes from Michael Ryan, who married Patrick Egan's daughter Alice. Egan had two other sons and a second daughter, but all died early. After Michael Ryan and Alice Egan were wed, Ryan left a thriving tailoring business and took over what had become the Egan Undertaking Co.

Today, the Egan-Ryan Funeral Home assists with about 300 funerals a year. Bob Ryan said about 75 percent of the funerals are for Catholics. "We're one of the oldest funeral homes in the city, and we're the oldest Catholic-run funeral home," he said.

Funeral homes in America are the type of business that, more than most, has leadership passed down through multiple generations. "There is a dedication in this business that's hard to explain un-

CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A monthly feature highlighting Catholic business owners and entrepreneurs working to share their faith in the marketplace.

less you've grown up with it," Ryan said. "It's the things you do, the lives you touch, the knowledge that your dedication means something to someone else.

"As I grew up, I began to realize that my dad, the late Bob Ryan Sr., was respected by a lot of people, and that meant a lot to me. I understood that he helped a lot of people in tough times. But although I always thought about becoming part of the family business, I went to the University of Notre Dame, obtained a degree in accounting and finance, then worked for the Price Waterhouse accounting firm for three years.

"After a while, I realized I would have a lot more impact on people as a funeral director than I would as an accountant, so I went to the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science for a year to learn embalming



Members of the Ryan family involved in the business include (from left) Kevin, Andy and Bob.

Photos courtesy Egan-Ryan



Egan-Ryan Funeral Home evolved from P.A. Egan Livery and Undertaking Co., which was founded 160 years ago.

and the other prerequisites necessary to be a state-licensed funeral director in Ohio. I began working for my father 45 years ago, have been here ever since and never regretted my decision."

Kevin Ryan has a similar story. He received a marketing degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and a master of business administration degree from Capital University, worked for State Auto Insurance and was in charge of managing grants for Ohio State University's James Cancer Hospital for four years before coming to Egan-Ryan 12 years ago.

"I'd worked at the funeral home during the summer while going to school but didn't want to go into the business full time," he said. "But while doing other things, I recognized that funeral work is a real calling. You're able to directly help people and see the results. It's more hands-on work than grant writing. You touch many people's lives. So I made the change." For a year, he commuted between Columbus and Cincinnati daily so he could attend the mortuary science school while working for OSU and then joined the family business.

Andy Ryan has been with the funeral home for more than 30 years and is a graduate of Ohio University and the mortuary science college. He also is a licensed insurance agent who assists with funeral advance planning.

Kevin and his wife, Gini, have a daughter and two sons, but the oldest child is in fifth grade, so it will be a while before it's known whether a sixth generation will be involved with the family business.

"That's not a concern," said Bob Ryan, who noted that although all of his eight sons and three daughters worked at the funeral home while they were students, only Kevin continued with the company. "All of my children got a good education, and all but Kevin ended up working somewhere else, and that's fine with me," he said.

Egan-Ryan and its predecessors always have been based in downtown Columbus. The company's original location was on East Naghten Street, which was known in the late 1800s as "Irish Broadway." That building eventually was used for other purposes but stood until being razed to make way for part of the Greater Columbus Convention Center and Nationwide Boulevard. Egan-Ryan's downtown location has been at 403 E. Broad St. for many years. It has operated a second funeral home at 4661 Kenny Road since 2008.

The company has about 10 full-time employees, including three other licensed funeral directors. Sister Rosemary Loomis, OP, whose ministry with the bereaved has been featured in previous Catholic Times stories, has been Egan-Ryan's aftercare coordinator since 1998.

"We have several employees who have been with us for 25 to 35 years," Bob Ryan said. "They understand the concept of service that's involved with handling funerals. You either like it or you don't, and if you don't like it, you don't last long. Some people may think of a funeral director as someone who wears nice suits and drives big cars, but it's a job where you often work weekends and holidays

Funerals change amid coronavirus fears

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every part of people's lives for the past 10 months, including how we grieve for those who have died. Safe-distance restrictions and limits on the number of people who can gather socially have resulted in significant changes in the way funeral directors do business and in the Catholic celebration of funeral rites.

"Catholic families are handling funerals for their loved ones in a variety of ways," said Bob Ryan, president of the Egan-Ryan Funeral Home, which has locations in downtown Columbus and on the city's northwest side.

"Some opt for the traditional funeral Mass with a limited number of people in attendance, followed by a burial service. Others have graveside services with family members and a priest. Others prefer a simple burial with no service.

"Many people are having private funerals and plan to celebrate the

deceased person's life at a memorial Mass once enough people are vaccinated against COVID that familiar patterns of life can resume. Also, the number of cremations has steadily grown in the last few years, now representing about 40 percent of our business, and that figure has been consistent during the pandemic," he said. "It's really a case of each family deciding what it's most comfortable with. There's no one way of handling things that is clearly favored."

"A good example of how funerals are different these days involves a recent funeral Mass in which we were involved at (Columbus) Christ the King (Church). This was a family with relatives in Michigan, California and overseas. A year ago, all of them would have gathered here, and it would have been quite a large event. COVID kept everyone from getting together, but we livestreamed the funeral at no charge, and the family was happy with that."

"We have livestreaming free of charge at all 16 of our locations, and

it has been of great assistance to families and to those funeral homes that have it," said Michael Schoedinger, president of Schoedinger Funeral and Cremation Services, the largest funeral-home group in central Ohio.

"Almost every funeral we've handled in the last few months has involved livestreaming. Our typical service still includes a public visitation of some kind, with minimal trafficking and maximum social distancing. Most of the funeral services or Masses we're involved with are private, limited to immediate family.

"At the end of the year, we have a private candlelight service at each of our locations for the families of people we have served during the year. This year's service was virtual, uniting all of our funeral homes, and about 1,500 people attended via video," Schoedinger said.

"Catholic churches in the Columbus area have become very comfortable with livestreaming over these past few months. Now, more than half the funerals we handle are livestreamed," Ryan

said. "It's a service we're happy to provide because it gives some comfort to those unable to attend a Mass who at least can see it when it is celebrated."

Schoedinger said that during the warmer months of the year, his funeral homes handled many more outdoor funerals than in the past, including some in parking lots and on lawns. "People just felt more comfortable dealing with social situations outside," he said. He also said there were some services in which some people drove their cars past a person's casket to pay their respects.

"Constant adaptation to whatever health guidelines are in place has become a way of life for funeral directors," said Brian Sheridan, owner of the Sheridan Funeral Home in Lancaster. "In the past, families would come to the funeral home, and most of the arrangements would involve face-to-face talks with the funeral director and staff members.

See FUNERALS, Page 19

EGAN-RYAN, continued from Page 17

or have 80-hour weeks. You have to be dedicated."

Ryan said he has seen three significant changes in his business in the past 45 years.

"First is the number of prearranged funerals," he said. "About 35 to 40 percent of our funerals are prepaid. It's a percentage that's grown steadily. This adds some challenges on our end, but it's a good thing, something people appreciate when someone dies and they know all the arrangements have been taken care of.

"The number of cremations also has risen steadily, especially since the Vatican issued cremation guidelines in 2016. I'd say about 40 percent of our funerals now are involved with cremation and burying cremated remains.

"Also, many people's attitude toward funerals has changed. I don't want to generalize, but it seems more and more people seem to think funerals are unnecessary. That's kind of a shame. A funeral is not a cure-all, but I've seen many instances where people come to a funeral feeling devastated, and you can tell afterward what a difference it's made, how the service has lifted them up. People don't get to take advantage of this if there's no funeral.

"The Catholic funeral rite especially is such a beautiful service, with its prayers and symbolism of new life with Jesus. It's hard to improve on that. Not every faith tradition is as fortunate to have such comforting reassurance."

Egan-Ryan has enjoyed a long association with the Dominican Sisters of Peace, whose motherhouse is in Columbus, and with their predecessor congregation, the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. The congregation has its own burial plot at St. Joseph Cemetery on Columbus' south side, and all of its funerals are handled by Egan-Ry-



Egan-Ryan's second location at 4661 Kenny Road in Columbus opened in 2008. Photo courtesy Egan-Ryan

an. "It's a wonderful, close relationship," Ryan said. "It's existed for so long no one here can remember how long ago it started."

Egan-Ryan also has been involved with the funerals of all the bishops of Columbus who are buried in the diocese. "Bishop (James) Hartley (the diocese's bishop from 1904 to 1944) was a friend of the Egan family," Ryan said. "After all the Egans died, Bishop Hartley called Mike Ryan, who was still a tailor, and asked him to take over the business. Mike did that, he built our Broad Street building and added 'Ryan' to the name, and we've continued to the present."

Egan-Ryan and the hospitals of the Mount Carmel Health system jointly sponsor the Sacred Lives program for parents of deceased infants born in Mount Carmel hospitals before 20 weeks of gestation have been completed. Such deaths are not required to be reported in Ohio.

Chaplains with the Mount Carmel system work

with the parents, the hospital and the funeral home to ensure the child has a dignified burial or cremation service. "Every baby born needs to be recognized. We consider it an honor to provide this service to parents in such a devastating time of tragedy," Ryan said.

Ryan and his wife, Mary Ginn Ryan, are the founders of SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education), which raises awareness and money for students with special needs. The Ryans began the program at Columbus St. Catharine School about 20 years ago when they enrolled their daughter Megan, who has Down syndrome, at the school. The program has grown steadily, spreading to several other diocesan schools and at least three other states.

"It seems to plateau, and then something else pops up," Ryan said. "Now every Catholic church and school in Licking County has a SPICE program. It's grown far beyond what we could have imagined."

In 45 years as a funeral director, the number of Catholic funerals Ryan has seen reaches into the thousands. He said his involvement with those services is a constant source of strength.

"As funeral directors, we see a lot of things, and for Kevin and Andy and I, our faith gets us through a lot," he said. "The Catholic funeral service in the context of a Mass brings a real sense of hope and of triumph in spite of death. We deal with some wonderful families and see the faith they have in the midst of a sad occurrence. This can't help but build your own faith."

(Some information in this story is from a private family history document written this past June by Lucy Ryan Kilbane. The Catholic Times is grateful to the Ryan family for permitting this material to be shared.)

FUNERALS, *continued from Page 18*

“Much of the planning now takes place online or over the phone, and sometimes you won’t see anyone from a family in person until just before calling hours begin. If the visitation is limited to family, as many now are, safe distancing isn’t a problem because not that many people are coming.”

“Funeral directors always are conscious of safety, and COVID adds to the concern. Our rules for embalming and handling of bodies are much more specific,” Sheridan said.

Embalmers use the same careful procedures they normally would, with the addition of wearing an N95 mask under the usual face shield and a body suit that covers the head instead of stopping at the neck.

The funeral directors said there has been a modest increase in the number of deceased people for whom they have provided services in the past year. That is consistent with figures from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which found that nearly 300,000 more people nationwide died from late January to early October 2020, compared with the average number of people who died during the same period in the previous five years. About two-thirds of those “excess deaths” were counted as COVID-related fatalities.

Indications are that since the pandemic began, more families have been contacting cemeteries and fu-



Michael Schoedinger, president of Schoedinger Funeral and Cremation Services in Columbus, lights a remembrance candle during a year-end service for families served during the past year.
Photo courtesy Schoedinger Funeral and Cremation Services

neral homes for pre-need planning – purchasing cemetery plots and grave markers and making funeral arrangements in advance to ease the stress involved in dealing with such matters at the time of a person’s death.

“COVID seems to be making more people consider these things, and we’ve been creative about dealing with the situation,” said Rich Finn, director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of Columbus. “Some people don’t want to visit the cemeteries but

want to make all the arrangements through online or on the phone. We can do that now, with the use of email and electronic signatures taking the place of traditional paperwork.”

Schoedinger said his company’s advance funeral planning department is having by far its busiest year. “People are thinking of their own mortality as a result of the pandemic. We’re all feeling more vulnerable, and that’s making more people think, ‘I want to plan a funeral now. I want to do this so

the family will be prepared when the time comes.”

Finn said that during the early part of the pandemic, many families delayed having funeral services in cemetery chapels or at gravesites in anticipation that regular social activities would resume in a few months. “Some set dates of services, figuring the virus would pass, but that didn’t happen,” he said. “It’s been 10 months since the virus hit, and people want some kind of closure, so, for the most part, they’re not putting services off any more.”

“Especially in this stressful period when all of us are dealing with the changes caused by the pandemic, a funeral is an important step in the grieving process,” Sheridan said. “People often find healing through a funeral service. It fills a void and allows those who are left behind to both mourn and celebrate the deceased.”

“As a Catholic funeral director, I find the prayers and graces of a Catholic funeral service and its promise of a new life to be a powerful symbol of hope,” Ryan said. “It provides support and comfort to family and friends. It makes a person realize he or she is not alone, and it provides closure and a final resting place through burial or cremation. The combination of these three factors is invaluable and reassuring in a period of great uncertainty.”

Family decorates graves for holidays



Members of the Cenci family decorated 14 graves in the family plot at St. Joseph Cemetery in Columbus for the holidays. Nicholas Cenci, who came to the United States in 1901 from Castel del Guidice, Italy, and changed his first name from Domenico to Nicholas, bought the plot in 1928. It has 17 spaces and includes four generations of the Cenci family. Nicholas was a stonemason who built fountains that are still standing in his hometown before taking his talents to America. The contracting company he founded, Nick Cenci & Sons, helped build the first runways at John Glenn International Airport in Columbus, the four-lane U.S. Route 33, roads, bridges, sewer and water lines, and houses throughout central Ohio. It also built the Sacred Heart statue at the former Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark, now being used as a temporary monastery by the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary.

Photo courtesy Cenci family

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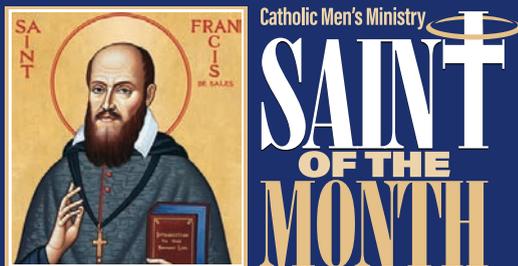
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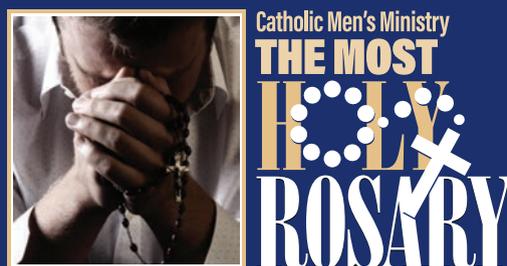
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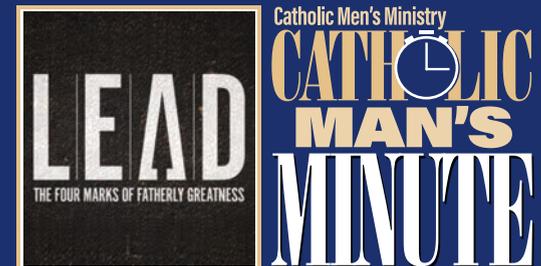
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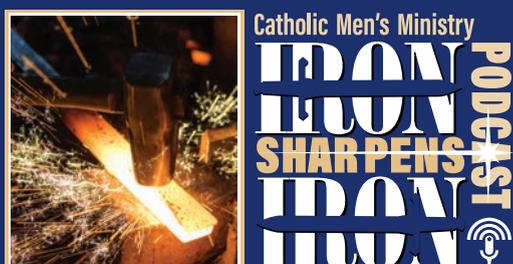
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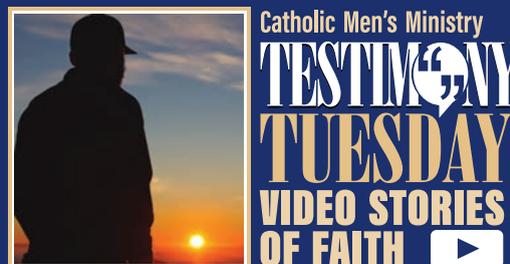
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